

We claim:

1. An eave member adapted to be attached to an eave or roof to create the illusion of relatively thick thatch roofing members, said eave member comprising:

a backer member;

5 thatch elements having free ends, said thatch elements being attached to said backer member in such a manner that said free ends define an exposed surface.

2. The eave member of claim 1, wherein said backer member is rigid.

10 3. The eave member of claim 1, wherein said thatch elements are composed of a synthetic material.

4. The eave member of claim 1, wherein said exposed surface is generally planar.

15 5. The eave member of claim 1, wherein said backer member is linear.

6. The eave member of claim 1, wherein said backer member is non-linear.

7. The eave member of claim 1, wherein said exposed surface is curved.

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8. A thatch roofing system comprising:

thatch roofing members each comprising thatch elements connected to a mounting member in a manner whereby said roofing member thatch elements present exposed roofing member free ends having a lowermost row;

eave members each comprising thatch elements connected to a backer member in a  
5 manner whereby said eave member thatch elements have eave member free ends defining an exposed surface;

whereby said eave members are adapted to be attached beneath said thatch roofing members such that said exposed surfaces of said eave member free ends align with said lowermost rows such that the combination of said eave members and said thatch roofing  
10 members makes said thatch roofing members appear to be thicker than in actuality.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein said backer members are rigid.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein said thatch elements are composed of a synthetic  
15 material.

11. The system of claim 8, wherein said exposed surfaces of said eave members are generally planar.

20 12. The system of claim 8, wherein said backer members are linear.

13. The system of claim 8, wherein some of said backer members are linear and some of said backer members are non-linear.

14. The system of claim 8, wherein some of said eave member exposed surfaces are linear and some of said eave member exposed surfaces are curved.

5 15. A method of forming a thatch roof on a roof with eaves and corners comprising the steps of:

providing thatch roofing members and eave members, said thatch roofing members each comprising thatch elements connected to a mounting member in a manner whereby said roofing member thatch elements present exposed roofing member free ends having a lowermost row, and  
10 said eave members each comprising thatch elements connected to a backer member in a manner whereby said eave member thatch elements present exposed eave member free ends to define a surface;

attaching said eave members to said eaves such that said surfaces defined by said eave member free ends extend along said eaves;

15 attaching said thatch roofing members to said roof above said eave members such that said lowermost rows of said roofing member free ends align with said surface defined by said eave member free ends, such that said exposed eave member free ends combine with said roofing member free ends to create the illusion of said thatch roofing members having a thickness equal to the combination of said thatch roofing members and said eave members.

20 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of providing linear eave members and non-linear eave members, and attaching said non-linear eave members to said

corners such that said surfaces defined by said non-linear eave member free ends mate with said surfaces defined by said linear eave member free ends.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein said eave members are attached to said eaves  
5 such that said eave member backer members are oriented generally vertically and said eave member thatch elements extend outwardly from said eaves in a downwardly sloping manner.

18. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of forming said thatch elements of synthetic materials.

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